

**From:** kts@developnet.net@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:49am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Ms. Renata B. Hesse, Antitrust Division  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Renata Hesse:

Please put a stop to the economically-draining witch-hunt against Microsoft. This has gone on long enough. What is the difference if you make it easy for people to launch free software, or have people download the free software? Microsoft provides a service by bundling the I.E.. AOL/TimeWarner offers Netscape for free as well, the difference is you download it.

As a reseller, I am licensed to bundle Netscape with my own Banners etc, and any computer manufacturer/seller can pre-install the Netscape browser also. There is no conflict with having both, I use them both simultaneously. Further, when you buy a branded computer, you have all of their pre-installed links, icons, and software favorites as well.

Microsoft has already agreed to hide its Internet Explorer icon from the desktop; the fact is, this case against Microsoft is little more than "welfare" for Netscape and other Microsoft competitors, with not a nickel going to those supposedly harmed by Microsoft: the computer user.

This is just another method for states to get free money, and a terrible precedent for the future, not only in terms of computer technology, but all sorts of innovations in the most dynamic industry the world has ever seen.

What it boils down to is this. Mr. Gates refused to provide the CIA with an open code so that foreign countries who use the MS-Operating system could unknowingly be hacked or spied upon by the CIA, and this agency wanted Bill Gates to provide them with a back door for covert operations. While Mr. Gates is a patriot, he felt that it would place a serious mistrust in all of the software used around the world. It would cause the enemies of this country to do more innovative security measures making it more difficult to spy than it currently is.

Mr. Gates didn't want to play the good ol boy game and they came down on him. What about Time Warner/AOL/ Netscape? How big does a monopoly have to get before they are brought to their knees? With all the global mergers, National Mergers, who is looking at the competitive disadvantages of the big Communication/oil conglomerates like Gulf Western etc. Or is this just another attempt by the socialist democrats to level a little more wealth?

Put a stop to this travesty of justice now. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Schreier  
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